

AVCO EVERETT RESEARCH LABORATORY

A DIVISION OF AVCO CORPORATION

BREMSSTRAHLUNG IN AIR*

by

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ABSTRACT

The partial wave analysis for Bremsstrahlung and elastic scattering by molecular nitrogen is reviewed. These studies suggest that the Bremsstrahlung in the field of molecular nitrogen can be estimated from the measured momentum transfer cross section. Using this approximation for the molecular components and recent calculations of Bremsstrahlung in the field of atomic oxygen and nitrogen, we estimate the emissivity and intensity from neutral Bremsstrahlung in high temperature air.

I. Introduction

In air 8000 K and 1 atmosphere of density the Bremsstrahlung from electrons accelerated in the fields of neutral atoms and molecules contributes about 10% of the total (spectrally integrated) emissivity. 1,2,3,4 Recent measurements of infrared radiation from air and nitrogen by Taylor have demonstrated that molecular nitrogen is the most important source of this radiation having about twice the cross section of that of atomic nitrogen.

Unfortunately, the molecular nitrogen which is the most important source of Bremsstrahlung high temperature air, is the most difficult to handle theoretically.

In Sect. II we outline the derivation of the quantum mechanical calculation of Bremsstrahlung from a spherically symmetric potential. In Sect. III we give a simple approximation relating the Bremsstrahlung to the momentum transfer cross section. In Sect. IV we review a calculation by Stier of the elastic scattering of electrons by molecular nitrogen. Using a similar approach for Bremsstrahlung we demonstrate that the relation between Bremsstrahlung and elastic scattering is as reasonable in the molecular as in the atomic case. In Sect. V we give a summary of our estimates of neutral Bremsstrahlung in high temperature air. In addition to the molecular nitrogen we give results for molecular oxygen using the same approximation given in Sect. III and justified in Sect. IV for molecular nitrogen. The atomic oxygen and nitrogen results are based on recent calculations designed to be consistent with the photo-absorption cross section of negative atomic oxygen.

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II. Bremsstrahlung from Low Energy Electrons Scattered by a Spherically Symmetric Potential

Following Nedelsky⁸ we assume that the radiation is proportional to the electron acceleration matrix element squared in an analogy with the classical result

$$J = \frac{4e^2}{3c^3} \qquad \left| a E, E' \right|^2 \tag{1}$$

Nedelsky, who uses a cut-off Coulomb potential, has the acceleration in the form

$$a = -\frac{dV}{dr} \quad j = -\frac{Ze^2}{mr^2} \quad j \quad \text{for } r < a$$
 (2)

The initial electron state is determined such that when a unit incident plane wave is subtracted only the outgoing (e^{+ikr}) waves remain. The final states are composed of both in-going and out-going waves and are normalized so that each component represents one encounter per unit of time.

Although Nedelsky treats this problem in general, we will limit our review to the lowest order waves (s and p waves). We have then for the initial state

$$\psi_{i} = \frac{a_{0}}{\sqrt{v_{i}} \kappa_{i}} \left(e^{i\delta_{0}} G_{0i} + 3ie^{i\delta_{1}} \cos \theta G_{1i} \right)$$
 (3)

To obtain the total radiation, we have to sum over final states and to this low order approximation we have for final states

$$(\psi_0)_f = \frac{2}{\sqrt{v_f}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} G_{0f}$$

$$(\psi_{1,0})_f = \frac{2}{\sqrt{v_f}} \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos \theta G_{1f}$$

$$(\psi_{1,\pm 1})_f = \frac{2}{\sqrt{v_f}} \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \theta e^{\pm i\phi} G_{1f}$$

Since the radial vector, j, is

$$j = i_{x} \sin \theta \cos \phi + i_{y} \sin \theta \sin \phi + i_{z} \cos \theta$$
 (5)

the radiation is given by

$$J = \frac{64\pi e^{6} 7}{3c^{3}m^{2}v_{i}v_{f}\kappa_{i}^{2}} - \left\{ \left| \int_{0}^{a} G_{0i} G_{1f} \frac{1}{r^{2}} dr \right|^{2} + \left| \int_{0}^{a} G_{1i}G_{0f} \frac{1}{r^{2}} dr \right|^{2} \right\}$$
(6)

The emission cross section is given by

$$Q_{\rm e} = J/h\nu \tag{7}$$

and using the detailed balance relation between the absorption and emission cross section

$$Q_{a} = \left(\frac{c^{2} v_{i}^{2}}{8\pi v^{2} v_{f}}\right) Q_{e}$$
 (8)

We find the absorption cross section to be

$$Q_{a} = \frac{256 \pi^{2}}{3} \frac{a a_{o}^{5}}{\kappa_{i} \kappa_{f}^{2} (\Delta \kappa^{2})^{3}} \left\| \int_{0}^{a} G_{0i} G_{1f} \frac{z}{r^{2}} dr \right\|^{2} + \int_{0}^{a} G_{1i} \frac{G_{0f}}{r^{2}} \frac{z}{r^{2}} dr \right\|^{2}$$
(9)

This is just the expression used by Chandresakar and Breen⁹ and others where Z/r^2 is the radial derivative of the potential energy in atomic units.

III. Hundley's Result (Born Approximation)

The close relation between the Bremsstrahlung and the elastic scattering cross sections is seen in the earliest quantum mechanical studies of this problem. Nedelsky, ⁸ using a cut-off Coulomb potential, found the same maxima and minima as Allis and Morse ¹⁰ in the elastic scattering. Thus, the same minima which explained the Ramsauer minimum cross section in argon and krypton indicate in Nedelsky's quantum mechanical calculation that the Bremsstrahlung from low energy electrons will be small for these elements. More recently, Ohmura and Ohmura ¹¹ have related the hydrogen atom Bremsstrahlung to its phase shifts. The validity of this approach for hydrogen has been definitized by the recent calculations of Geltman. ¹² Hundley ¹³ has recently assumed that this may be a generally useful approach and has tried to apply the Born approximation to this problem.

Hundley's relation for the Bremsstrahlung emission is (in the limit $\kappa_i = \kappa_f \equiv \kappa$)

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\omega} = \frac{16 e^2 \pi \kappa^2}{3m^2 \omega c^3} \frac{Q_m}{4\pi a_0^2} \qquad (10)$$

and Q_{m} is the momentum transfer cross section. The intensity (J) of our previous section is defined by

$$J = 2\pi h \nu \frac{d\sigma}{d\omega} \tag{11}$$

In applying this result, Hundley suggested using the zero energy scattering length to determine the momentum transfer cross section. Since the low energy nitrogen cross section is apparently fairly small this extension would imply a small molecular nitrogen Bremsstrahlung. It seems to us more reasonable to retain the original momentum transfer cross section in Eq. (10) and thereby avoid the question of the low energy limit and extrapolating to the energies of interest.

IV. Molecular Nitrogen

A reasonably successful attempt at predicting the elastic scattering of low energy electrons by molecular nitrogen has been given by Stier. Although the model for the electron molecule interaction is crude, it is adjusted on a semi-empirical basis to give the scattering resonance at 2.3 ev so that reasonable agreement is obtained with both the total experimental cross section and its angular distribution. A significant difference between this case and the spherically symmetric one is that the p-wave has two parts depending on the projection of its angular momentum along the internuclear axis of the molecule. This projection is designated by m. There are two important states with ℓ , m values p, σ and p, π . Stier's work indicates that it is the p, σ wave which has a resonance at 2.3 ev.

Stier gives an expression for the elastic scattering cross section in terms of the partial wave phase shifts. It is

$$Q = \frac{4\pi a_0^2}{\kappa^2} \sum_{m \le \ell} (2 - \delta_{0m}) \sin^2 \delta_{\ell, m}$$
 (12)

where δ_{0m} is zero except when m equals 0, in which case it is 1. If the phase shift for the two p-waves is the same, then this reduces to the spherically symmetric result $[(2\ell+1)\sin^2\delta_{\ell}]$.

In the case of interest for the p-waves, the m=1 phase shift is negligible, and the remaining contribution to the cross section (m=0) has a coefficient which is 1/3 of that for the p-wave in spherically symmetric scattering.

Following Stier we look for a corresponding effect in the Bremsstrahlung relations. Stier has solved the molecular scattering problem as an expansion in the parameter $c = d/\lambda$ where d is the nuclear separation in the molecule and λ is \hbar/mv , the deBroglie wavelength for the electron.

In the limit of ϵ going to zero, the wave functions are very similar to those we encountered in the symmetrical scattering estimate of Bremsstrahlung. The one exception is that the radial part of the p-wave function

now has two parts corresponding to the value of m. We have, for the initial state,

$$\psi_{i} = \frac{a_{0}}{\kappa_{i} \sqrt{v_{i}}} \left[e^{i\delta_{0}} \left(G_{0}\right)_{i} + 3ie^{i\delta_{1}} \left(G_{10}\right)_{i} \right]$$
 (13)

where we have chosen the z-axis along the direction of the incident plane wave so that only m = 0 occurs. For the final states (as in Sect. II) we again consider only the four lowest terms which are

$$(\psi_0)_{\bf f} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{v_{\bf f}}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} (G_0)_{\bf f}$$

$$(\psi_{1,0})_{f} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{v_{f}}} \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \cos \theta (G_{10})_{f}$$
 (14)

$$(\psi_{1,\pm 1})_{f} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{v_{f}}} \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\pi}} \sin \theta e^{\pm i\phi} (G_{11})_{f}$$

where $(G_{\ell m})_f$ is the radial function for the ℓ , m wave. Substituting these wave functions into Nedelsky's expression for the intensity, we obtain

$$J = \frac{16\pi}{v_{f}v_{i}\kappa_{i}^{2}} \left\{ \left| \int_{0}^{\infty} (G_{10})_{i} (G_{0})_{f} \frac{dV}{dr} dr \right|^{2} + \frac{1}{3} \left| \int_{0}^{\infty} (G_{0})_{i} (G_{10})_{f} \frac{dV}{dr} \right|^{2} \right\}$$

$$+ \frac{2}{3} \left| \int_{0}^{\infty} (G_0)_{i} (G_{11})_{f} \frac{dV}{dr} \right|^{2}$$
 (15)

As in the elastic scattering, if only the m=0 phase of the $\ell=1$ states is important, the Bremsstrahlung is reduced by a factor 1/3.

When the incident plane wave is at an angle a with the z-axis, we obtain the same result so that in this approximation the average over angles of incidence gives the same result as taking the incident wave along the z-axis.

We conclude to this order of approximation that the Bremsstrahlung is proportional to the momentum transfer cross section, even in the non-spherically symmetric case.

V. Results and Summary

We conclude, as a result of 1) the above study of Bremsstrahlung for molecular nitrogen, 2) the Born approximation as given by Hundley, and 3) our numerical calculations of the atomic oxygen and atomic nitrogen neutral Bremsstrahlung and elastic scattering cross sections, 7 that Hundley's approximation should give a reasonable estimate of the Bremsstrahlung absorption cross section.

Using this approximation we can now give estimates of the neutral Bremsstrahlung from high temperature air. The emissivity per unit length is dermined according to

$$\frac{\epsilon}{L} = 2N_i N_e Q_a \tag{16}$$

where the density of particles N_i and N_e are taken from the Bureau of Standards results by Hilsenrath et al. The radiation absorption cross section Q_a is determined from the Maxwell averaged momentum transfer cross section Q_m by

$$Q_{\rm a} \approx 2.9 \times 10^{-19} Q_{\rm m} \left(\frac{1.36^{-2} \lambda}{1.24 \mu}\right)^3 \frac{4}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{T}{11,600 \times 0.544}\right)^{3/2}$$
 (17)

For the Maxwell average we have used

$$Q_{\rm m} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{0}^{\infty} Q\left(E + \frac{1.24\mu}{2\lambda}\right) \sqrt{u} e^{-u} du \qquad (18)$$

where u = E/kT and E is the initial electron energy. We have used measured values of Q and by taking values at $E + (1.24/2\lambda)$ we have attempted to take account of the fact that the final state of the electron is at higher energy than the initial state.

With the emissivity per unit length we can calculate the spectral intensity according to

$$I_{\lambda} = \frac{\epsilon}{L} \frac{\sigma T^{4}}{2\pi 6} \frac{u^{4} e^{-u}}{\lambda}$$
 (19)

where u = hv / kT.

We use the results given by Phelps et al. ¹⁴ for the momentum transfer cross section of molecular nitrogen and of Ramsauer et al. ¹⁶ for molecular oxygen. For atomic oxygen and nitrogen we go directly from our calculation of the Bremsstrahlung. The results are given in four tables. These contain the intensity (I) in watts/cm³/ster micron and the emissivity/cm (ϵ /L), i.e., the fraction of the blackbody intensity from 1 centimeter of optical depth. These results are given for temperatures between 3000 and 15,000°K, densities between 10^{-3} and 10 atm and wavelengths between 0.3 and 4.8 μ . A sample of these data are plotted in Fig. 1 which gives the intensity for the four neutral species considered as a function of wavelength at T = 9000°K and $\rho/\rho_0 = 10$. Also shown is the blackbody limit.

These results are consistent with the measurements of Taylor⁵ and the tables of emissivity prepared by Allen¹⁷ based on Taylor's measurements.

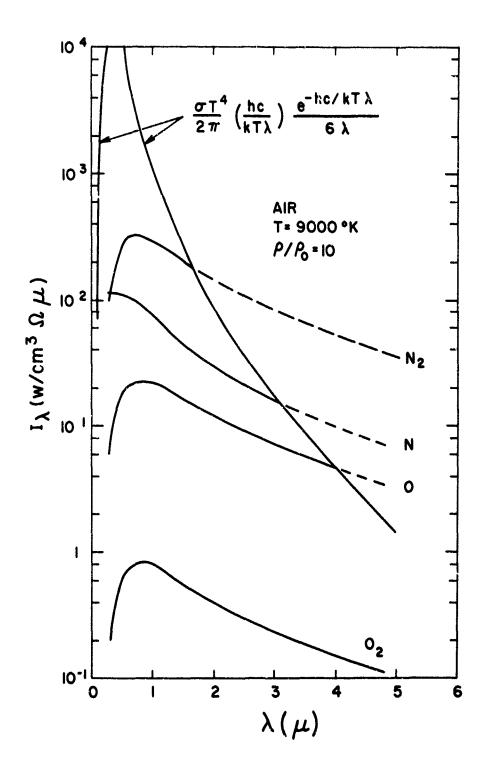


Fig. 1 The spectral intensity in watts per cubic centimeter-steradian-micron as a function of wavelength in microns. The Bremsstrah-lung continuum components for molecular N_2 and O_2 and atomic O_3 and O_4 are given separately. Also shown is the corresponding Planck limit. These curves are for a temperature of O_4 and a density O_4/O_4 = 10. The component curves are shown as dashed lines when the intensity from 1 cm of optical depth exceeds the Planck limit.

TABLE I

Bremsstrahlung absorption cross section (Qa), emissivity per centimeter (ϵ/L) and spectral intensity (I_{λ}) in watts/cm³ steradian micron for molecular nitrogen.

10.0	ε/L I _λ	5.16E-09 1.53E-09				8.05E-06 7.45E-06	2.18F=	2.125	3.1.4	1.94	5.046-01 7.685-01	1.526	3-196	7.545	1.156	2-14E 51 3-85F 91	7.45	307	2.1.5	301.8	1.30F 22 2.54E 02	7.605	9.65	4.93F	1.756	2.55E 02 5.24E 02
= 1.0	I,	5.13t-11 5					5.236-63 2				1.842-02 5					5.366-01 2	01	5	5		3	10	6		0	00
24	7/∍	1.735-10	7.036-10	4.51E-09	3-506-68	2-705-07	5.916-06	3.3/6-05	2-145-04	1.586-03	1-215-02	1.11E-04	7.75E-04	5.21E-03	3.874-02	2.98E-01	2.378-04	1.835-03	1 - 30E - 02	9.795-02	7.547-01	2.04F-04	1.675-03	1-235-02	9,346-02	7.336-01
0. 1	۲	1.646-12	6.20t-10	6. 79E-39	1.225-08	7.96E-09	9.56E-05	9.30E-04	1.366-03	8.538-24	3.375-04	1.176-32	3.65E-02	2.91E-02	1.320-02	4.42E-93	3.664-52	6.54E-02	3.946-02	1.536-02	4.76E-03	4.576-32	5.795-32	2.96F-32	1.066-32	3.156-03
0 #	£/L	5-52E-12	Z.Z.4E-11	01-366-1	1.12E-09	8.61E-09	1.08E-07	6.16F-07	3.90E-06	2.88E-35	2.21E-04	9.185-07	6.39E-06	4. 30E-05	3.196-04	2.45E-03	7.596-07	5.87E-06	4.166-05	3.146-04	2.435-03	4.25E-07	3.486-36	2.56E-05	1.96E-04	1.536-03
01	ι	4.93E-14	1.8/E-11	01-140-7	3.66E-10	2.406-10	1.41E-06	1.376-05	2.00F-05	1.26E-05	4.97E-06	4.79E-05	1.50E-04	1.19E-04	5.39F-05	1.81E-05					1.176-05			3.136-05		
= 0.01	€/L	1.668-13	0.101-0	71-146-4	3.37E-11	2.596-10	1.59E-09					.76E-09		1.76F-07		1.01F-05			1.025-07		5.99E-06				2.07E-07	
. 001	٦٢	1.326-15	C1-344-4	71-304-6	9. /BE-12	6.41E-12	1.42E-08	1.396-07	2.03E-07	1.27E-07	5.02E-08	1.476-07	4.60E-07	3.67E-07	1.66E-07	5.56E-08		2.42E-07		5.66E-08	1.765-08	9.49E-09	1.20E-08	6.16E-09	2.20E-09	6.54E-10
$40 \rho/\rho_{o} = 0.001$	€/L	4.446-15	1 146-12	61-201-1	8.591-13	6.93E-12	1.61E-11	9.19E-11	5.82E-10	4.30E-09	3.30E-08	1.166-11	8.04E-11	5.41E-10	4.01E-09	3.096-08	2.81E-12	2.17E-11	1.546-10	1.16E-09	9.00E-09	8.83E-14	7.24E-13	5.32E-12	4.07E-11	3.18E-10
$T(^{\circ}K) \lambda(\mu) Q_{a}(cm^{5}) \times 10^{40}$		1.916-01		2000	3-585 01	2.59E 02	4.80E-01	2.74E 00	1.73€ 01	1.28E 02		7.74E-01	5.39E 00	3.62E 01	2.69E 02	2.07E 03		8 38E 00	5.U7E 01	.42E	3.43E 03	1.37E 00		8.28F 01		4.94E 03
γ(μ)		6.0		•••	***	*	0.3	9.0	1.2	7.7	4.8	0.3	9.0	1.2	2.4	4.8	0.3	9.0	1.2	5.4	4. 8			1.2	2.4	4.8
T(°K)		3000					9009					0006					12000					15000				

TABLE II

Bremsstrahlung absorption cross section (Q_a), emissivity per centimeter (ϵ/L) and spectral intensity (I_{λ}) in watts/cm³ steradian micron for molecular oxygen.

TABLE III

Bremsstrahlung absorption cross section (Q_a), emissivity per centimeter (ϵ/L) and spectral intensity (I_λ) in watts/cm³ steradian micron for atomic nitrogen.

τ(^ο κ) λ	(H)	$T(^{\circ}k) \lambda(\mu) Q_{a}(cm^{5}) \times 10^{40}$	= °d/d	0.001	.0	. 10		0. 1	"	1.0	= 10	10.0
			e/L	ι	₹/r	1 کم	¢/L	۲,	¢/r	۲	1/∍	۲ ۲
3000	0.3		6.116-18	1.815-38	7.27E-17	2.166-17	7.64E-16	2.27E-16	7.575-15	2.254-15	7-095-14	2-106-14
	9.0	3.70E 00	1.29E-17	3.57E-16	1.546-16	4.25E-15	1.62E-15	4-46E-14	1.60E-14	4-426-13	५.	4-146-12
	1.2	1.80E 01	6,295-17	2.96E-15	7.485-16	3-52E-14	7.86E-15	3.70E-13	7.795-14	3.57E-12	∵'	3,446-11
	5.4	. 10F	3.84E-16	4.18E-15	4.57E-15	4.97E-14	4.80E-14	5.236-13	4.765-13	5.185-12	~ .	4-855-11
	4.8	8.COE 02	2.80E-15	2.58E+15	3.32E-14	3.07E÷14	3.49E-13	3.236-13	3.465-12	3.206-12	∹	3.03E-11
9009	0.3	1.75E 00	1.645-10	1.45E-07	3.826-09	3.38E-06	7.47E-08	6.61E-35	1.276-06	1.126-03	1.67E-05	1.486-32
	9.0	3.70E 00	3.465-10	5.23E-07	8.08E-09	1.22E-05	1.58F-07	2.38E-04	2.68F-06	4.04E-03	3.546-05	5.346-02
	1.2		1.69E-09	5.87E-07	3.936-08	1.376-05	7.69E-07	2.68E-04	1.306-05	4.54E-03	1.72E-04	6.00E-02
	2.4		1.03E-08	3.05E-07	2:406-07	7:10E-06	4:70E-06	1.395-04	7.95E-05	2.365-03	1.055-03	3.116-02
	4.8	8.00E 02	7.496-08	1-146-07	1.75E-06	2.66E-06	3.42E-05	5.21E-35	5.796-04	8.830-04	7.656-13	1.176-22
9000	0.3	1.75E 00	2.47E-08	3.15E-04	8.01E-07	1.02E-02	2.25E-05	2.876-01	4.77E-04		8.716-03	
)	9.0		5.23E-08	2.995-04	1.698-06	9.70E-03	4.77E-05	2.73E-01	1.C1E-03		1.846-02	
	1.2	1.805 01	2.55E-07	1-735-04	8.24E-06	5.596-03	2.32E-04	1.57E-C1	4.91E-03	₹33€ 00	8.96E-02	6.386 01
	2.4	1.10E 02	1.56E-06	6.42E-05	5.04E-05	2.086-03	1.42F-03	5-855-02	3.005-02		5.48E-01	
	4.8		1.136-05	2.04E-05	3.66E-04	6.00E-04	1.036-02	1.86E-02	2.185-01		3.98E 00	
12000	0.3		1.686-07	8.13E-03	8.35E-06	4.036-01	3-1CE-04	1.536 01	1.036-02	4.85E 92	2.436-01	.17
	9.0		3.56E-07	3.97E-03	1.77E-05	1.97E-01	6.56E-34	7.31F 33	2.126-02	.37Ë	5.14E-01	•73€
	1.2	1.80E 01	1.73E-06	1.646-03	8.595-95	8-136-02	3.196-03	3.G2E 50	1.036-61		2.50F 00	.1.
	7.4		1.06E-05	5.16E-04	5.25E-04	2.56E-02	1.956-02	9.528-01	6.31F-01	•08₽	1.536 01	•46E
•	4.8	8.COE 02	7.70E-05	1.5iE-04	3.82E-03	7-476-03	1.426-01	2.786-01	4.59E 00	76ė•	1.116 02	• 18E
15000	0.3	1.75E 00	1.105-07	1.186-02	1.855-05	1.99E 00	1.156-03		4.81E-02			
	9.0	3.70E 00	2:33E-07	3.885-03	3.916-05	6.505-01	2.425-03	4,03E 01	1.026-01	1.69£ 03	3.655 00	90 340.9
	1.2	1.80E 01	1.13E-05	1.316-03	1.906-04	2.20E-01	1.186-02		4.95E-01			
	5.4	• 10E	6.93E-06	3.746-04	1.16E-03	6.27E-02	7.21E-02		3.62E 00			
	4.8	8.COE 02	5.04E-05	1.04E-04	8.45E-03	1.746-02	5.24E-01		2.26F 01			

ABLE IV

Bremsstrahlung absorption cross section (Q_a) , emissivity per centimeter (ϵ/L) and spectral intensity (I_λ) in watts/cm³ steradian micron for atomic oxygen.

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